

August 19, 2013 7:00 P.M.
JONES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
POLLOCKSVILLE TOWN HALL
MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Frank Emory, Chairman
Mike Haddock, Vice-Chairman
Sondra Ipock-Riggs, Commissioner
Joe Wiggins, Commissioner
Zack Koonce, III, Commissioner

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Franky J. Howard, County Manager
Jennifer King, Clerk to the Board
Melissa Moore-Freeman, Finance Officer

The Chairman called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. A **MOTION** was made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Sondra Ipock-Riggs, and unanimously carried **THAT** the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION made by Mike Haddock, seconded by Joe Wiggins, and unanimously carried **THAT** the minutes of August 5, 2013, be approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Buddy Weatherington, Pollocksville Fire Department member, explained that Pollocksville Fire Department was disqualified for the fireman's relief fund by Raleigh due to failure to submit the Report of Fire Conditions timely. Mr. Weatherington requested that the county approve payment to the department in the amount of \$1,922.35 for monies they would have received for the fireman's relief fund. **MOTION** made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Sondra Ipock-Riggs, and unanimously carried **THAT** this item be **TABLED** until the board can obtain further information.

Mr. Randall Lovette explained that the Boy Scouts of America placed a log cabin in the woods around Catfish Lake a few years ago and should have requested a tax exemption. This program has been very active since 1929 for father and son outings. The group currently meets the second weekend of every month. Mr. Lovette explained that the group had obtained needed permits to move the cabin from New Bern in 2009 and would like to request the tax exemption be approved. Franky Howard, County Manager, explained that this item is listed on the agenda and will be discussed at that time.

Hattie Morris, Maysville resident, stated that the Maysville Fire Tax information was not accurate and the department had citizens believing they would only see a \$17 increase in their taxes due to the fire tax. The department wants to hire someone for thirty-some-thousand dollars to be a policeman/EMT/fireman when Johnston Ambulance Service is already taking care of Maysville. Mrs. Morris stated that for a fire call four responders are necessary so why pay one person that can't go anywhere alone. The county already pays for volunteers. Mrs. Morris suggested that the fire departments charge the insurance like EMS does.

Ollis Spence stated that 25 years ago they started charging 911 to telephone bills at a charge of \$1 per person. Mr. Spence stated there was two-hundred thousand dollars in the account a few years ago when Trenton paid for EMS people that are supposed to cover the whole county but Maysville hardly sees them. He stated if Maysville does hire this "Super Man" then just charge the telephone bill. He also stated that politics hook you first and then pull the hook out.

Joe Wiggins explained that the county commissioners were not the ones initiating or in control of the fire tax. This issue will be on the ballot to be voted on by homeowners. There was some discussion from the board about the specifics regarding the fire tax voting.

Buddy Weatherington explained that the Pollocksville Fire Department was requesting the fire tax because the last five-years the department has been operating in the hole. There is no guarantee a fireman will return home from a call. Ninety-percent of fundraising sponsors are businesses outside of Jones County and the department has been denied a grant for four-years in a row.

Michael Jordan, Maysville Fire Chief, explained that the department is requesting this paid position because all the fire members work out of town and they can only respond to bad calls if approved by their employers. The goal is to have a first responder available within three to four minutes.

1. FIRE HYDRANT DISCUSSION

Michael Jordan explained that homeowners insurance rates are fixing to go up and that houses need to be located within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant. The rest of the county is covered better than Maysville. Mr. Jordan presented information regarding how many hydrants are located in each district, a copy of the list is marked Exhibit A and is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Jordan requested that the board look into options of adding fire hydrants for the benefit of the homeowners.

2. 4-H LIVESTOCK CLUB

Margaret Bell, Extension Livestock Agent, explained that she was here to thank the commissioners for their support. Ms. Bell introduced several youth members who stated their names, what animals they showed, and how they placed in competition.

3. CDBG – MARGIE PAYTON HOUSING

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Sondra Ipock-Riggs, and unanimously carried **THAT** the demolition work for Margie Payton, at a cost of \$7,489 and the replacement housing assistance for Ms. Payton, total replacement housing costs, be approved at a cost not to exceed \$70,000.

4. TAX DISCOVERY

This item was tabled at the last meeting. Wayne Vanderford, Tax Collector, explained that in working with some maps earlier in the year he noticed a new structure around Catfish Lake. Upon inspection the structure was a boyscout cabin. The structure should

have been tax exempted beginning in 2010, however, the Boyscout Troop failed to request the tax exemption. Tim Mitchell, Scout Master, explained that the board and citizens are welcome to attend a meeting on the second weekend of the month. **MOTION** made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Sondra Ipock-Riggs, and unanimously carried **THAT** the tax exempt status for Boy Scouts of America, more specifically the log cabin located at 449 Catfish Lake Road, be approved.

5. TAX COLLECTIONS REPORT – JULY

Mr. Howard presented the July Tax Collections Report. There were no specifics related to collections as there are billing issues within the office at this time.

6. COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT FUNDING - MATCH

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Zack Koonce, and unanimously carried **THAT** the 10% match for the Jones County Home and Community Care Block Grant be approved in the amount of \$15,970.

7. NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE DISCUSSION

There was some discussion related to who would attend the NCACC Annual Conference in Greensboro.

8. JAIL MEAL BIDS

Bids for jail meals were presented as follows:

Subway	\$4.20
Trenton Red & White	\$4.72
Old Plant Diner	\$5.10

MOTION made by Sondra Ipock-Riggs, seconded by Zack Koonce, and unanimously carried **THAT** the low bid from Subway be accepted as long as the food is monitored to ensure it meets the requirements of the program.

9. NCDOT – TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – US 17

Mr. Howard presented a letter to the board concerning the NCDOT Transportation Improvement Program which outlined proposed improvements for Highway 17.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Hilda Hill stated that she thoroughly enjoyed the meeting and would attend again in the future.

Margaret Bell explained that the Craven/Jones Livestock Association started back up and anyone interested in attending meetings is welcome to do so in Cove City. Ms. Bell also explained that the county has a county animal response team now that will help move dogs, cats, etc. in times of disaster or emergencies.

Jay Bender thanked the board for their appearance in Pollocksville.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Howard reminded those present that the Heritage Festival will be held on September 21, 2013.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Sondra Ipock-Riggs

Mrs. Ipock Riggs stated that she is still fighting water treatment plants being located in Jones County.

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Sondra Ipock-Riggs, and unanimously carried **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Frank Emory
Chairman

Jennifer King
Clerk to the Board